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JDS  
K Jones  
8/21/01

JC960 U.S. PTO  
09/770003  
01/25/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: Girzone 2 )  
Serial No.: )  
Filed: ) Group Art Unit:  
For: Gas Blocking Device for ) Examiner:  
Optical Fiber Repeater )

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document(s) listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits.

A copy of the listed document(s) is/are attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies a document as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant

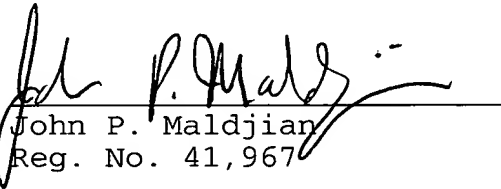
<u>Certificate of Express Mailing 37 CFR§1.10</u>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee, Express Mail No. EL706356409US addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on -	
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Debra Heinz	
(Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)	
Debra Heinz	(Signature)

determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

Applicant further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
John P. Maldjian  
Reg. No. 41,967

Date:

1/24/01